

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

I. Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1, 14 and 15 have been amended, as suggested by the Examiner, in order to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 13.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 13 has been identified as being allowable. The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowability. The scope of claim 13 remains unchanged and remains allowable.

Furthermore, as mentioned above, independent claims 1, 14 and 15 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 13. Therefore, claims 1, 14 and 15 should also be allowable.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection

Claims 1-8, 10, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Nakano (U.S. 2003/0081792) and Kocher (U.S. 20046/0133794).

As mentioned above, independent claims 1, 14 and 15 have been amended to include the subject matter of claim 13 indicated as being allowable (e.g., the limitations related to the user authentication unit, as recited in claim 13).

As a result, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 14 and 15 and claims 2-8 and 10 that depend therefrom recite allowable subject matter. Therefore, withdrawal of this 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance and an early notification thereof is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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